

## **Dear Parent/Guardian**

As we approach the final half-term of this extraordinary year, it is very exciting to be preparing for our Year 9 pupils to go off to Grange Hall in Devon for their residential camp! In addition, Geography field trips for Years 7 and 8 take place in the first week back after the break, and Year 7 pupils can also look forward to their STEM day, focusing on science in particular. We also plan to make some adjustments to our ways of working in school, whilst still, of course, being careful to maintain a system of controls with regard to COVID-19. On return after half-term, pupils will move to lessons, rather than being based in their form rooms, and lessons will again be taught in subject specific rooms across the school. We are retaining year group bubbles for form room areas, and for outside spaces, and will sanitise between classes, however the reduced numbers of pupils in school, with Year 11 carrying out remote study tasks, and U6 no longer in school, make this possible. We also hope that good weather, at last, will mean that everyone can be outside as much as possible.

We are also returning to our usual uniform expectations, therefore, **hoodies and coats will no longer be permitted**; warmer weather should preclude the need for these. **We expect pupils to wear appropriate uniform, including shoes, not trainers, to look smart, and to follow the dress code regarding jewellery.** Please could we ask for parents' support in ensuring that pupils adhere to the uniform requirements. At present, pupils may still wear PE kit on the days when they have PE, but only on these days. Depending on how the national situation progresses with regard to COVID-19, we hope to be able to return to using changing rooms in the next few weeks.

## **Hockey Selection for Tilly Strand-Ford 11T**

Congratulations to Tilly Strand-Ford who has been selected to play hockey for the England U16 squad for the second year running! Well done Tilly!

## **Young Fashion Designer UK competition entry - D&T Department - Miss Hundal**

Well done to Amy Schipper 9I for entering the Young Fashion Designer UK competition; a national competition for students who have a passion for fashion. Showcasing her enthusiasm and talent for textiles, Amy designed an inspiring collection of outfits that centred around this year's theme of sustainable athleisure wear. Her research led to her exploring the notion of circular fashion, fabric construction and social media's role in promoting trends. Having an awareness of these areas shows the depth of Amy's interest and, best of all, she did this independently in her own time. It's really great to see Amy sharing her creative flair, and we wish her the very best of luck with her entry!

## **CCF Bootcamp - Cdt. Harriet Dunkin**

The day began with our usual parade, led by senior officers with a fairly good cadet turn out, none of us aware, at this point, of the proceedings for the day. We had been instructed to 'dress to impress' and consequently received a thorough uniform inspection, where hot tips were shared on how to represent CCF whilst looking fly. The purpose of the day was the consolidation of our previous, admittedly fractured, knowledge of basics in Drill, First Aid, Cooking and Hygiene in the field, Navigation and Signals. Our minds were slightly frazzled by the rigorous drill practice which followed shortly after, though this turned out to be later appreciated when we were observed for accuracy in marching and other commands, in order to receive a nice tick next to our names for 'Drill Basics'.

Next, for First Aid, we did a quick recap of CPR and the use of an AED so we could be assessed, and after a brief break we did a rundown of Fieldcraft that would be needed for the much anticipated annual camp, where (to a range of reactions) we were informed of the fact we would be camping in tents for the entire week. We were given a breakdown of hygiene, cooking and the appropriate morning routine for camp and were also given a wondrous insight into the highs and lows of ration packs. After lunch, we went to a Navigation session where our compass labelling knowledge was put to the test. It is safe to say that we all can now, just about find our way from the C block to the PAC, using a map of school along with various compass bearings and grid references. Signals was the last activity, where we finally got some fresh air and a run around to do some orienteering using correct signalling protocol. The aim was to travel in teams to strategically placed map and grid references and relay the correct information incognito and without error. Of course, it was highly competitive, with teams in anguish when they were forced to wait for the channel to be clear or were overtaken by a sprinting enemy who were determined to get to information first. Winners were awarded with chocolate, which definitely encouraged some competitive behaviour!

The final parade included the presentation of certificates for everyone and a thank you to the fantastic seniors who had worked hard to adjust their lessons to the wet weather conditions. They were so accommodating as well as making it interesting and fun. With a rather windy congratulations and dismissal, we left school feeling accomplished and far more informed than we had been a few hours earlier.

### **CCF Fieldcraft - Sgt. Charlotte Hurst**

On Friday 7th May, L and U6th cadets met at the fort after school, for an evening of field craft. Having spent such a long time in lockdown, and so not having done much field craft in a year, we all felt a bit rusty. Therefore, I was quite relieved when Lt Wood went through the basics of fieldcraft, covering everything from patrolling to section attacks. After the recap, we got to go outside and put everything we'd just covered into action. It was great to get outside again and start running around. After practising multiple section attacks, with different directions of approach, we went back to the classroom to go over ambushes. We all found it really interesting to learn how every group operated together cohesively with minimal vocal communication. After a quick practice, we constructed a map out of foliage to plan our ambush and were given our full orders from Lt Wood. Having had a lesson on Quick Battle Orders about a month ago, it was really useful to hear a full order given out in a situation. After running through our plans we put on camouflage paint ("cammed up") and set off to our Final Rendezvous (FRV); from there we set the ambush in silence. It always surprises me how exciting it is to be lying in the bushes waiting for an ambush to start, and it is definitely something I think we've all missed over lockdown. After springing the ambush and carrying out searches, we collapsed the ambush and returned to the FRV and started to patrol back. However, we were contacted again (unexpectedly) and carried out a section attack. After lots more running and a snap ambush, we all made it back to the fort in one piece. It was a super fulfilling evening, and we all learnt loads.

On Saturday 8th we all returned to school for a morning of more fieldcraft and combat first aid. We started off by having a really great lesson from WO2 Hounsome about first aid in the field, the reality of first aid under fire and how it differs from everyday first aid. My favourite bit was what he kept in his first aid kit. I think many of us have seen the bandages and tourniquet used by the army in films, but never in real life. It was therefore really interesting to see how it all worked. I was particularly surprised by how long the emergency bandage was and the special fastening hook that was used to tie them off, rather than using a fiddly knot used on normal bandages. After briefly going through how to get casualties into a safe location during contact, we got to go back outside and run through everything we'd learnt. Outside, we ran through another ambush, however, this time on the return we gained a casualty so had to do a casevac. It was really good to put everything we'd learnt into action, and especially the chance to get to try out giving a 9-liner (the radio protocol the military uses when there is a casualty).

In the afternoon, Cpl Reader and I taught two Navigation lessons to Year 10 cadets. After a quick recap on parts of the compass and bearings, they set off to do a navigation task round the school using bearings. We were really impressed with how confident and able they were, completing the route very speedily despite a tiring day of activities and lessons. It was also really satisfying for Cpl Reader and me, as we had not previously taught lessons to younger years. I really enjoyed the experience and learnt loads from it - such as checking all the maps were the same before the lesson started! I feel like I can safely say that we all enjoyed the weekend and found it really great to get back outside. It made me realise how much I love CCF. I'd like to say a huge thanks to all the officers who helped run the weekend, especially Lt Wood and WO2 Hounsome for their fantastic lessons.

### **CCF Leadership Camp - LCpl Aves**

On the weekend of the 7-9th May, eleven of us in Year 11 attended a Leadership Camp to complete our CFIT (Cadet Force Instructional Technique) Course. This is something we have been working on since November with Captain Capon-Russell at almost weekly lunchtime tuition sessions. We began the weekend with a weapons handling test and some revision on effective teaching methods for practical lessons; there was also a demonstration Skill at Arms lesson and we learnt all the necessary safety procedures to follow when leading a lesson involving rifles. On Saturday morning, we put what we knew to the test and all taught 30 minute lessons on different aspects of Skill at Arms Topic including NSP drills, parts of the L98A2 Cadet GP Rifle and sling fitting. We were all very nervous to teach our lessons but they were far less scary than anticipated and everyone passed!

In the afternoon, we chose between teaching Fieldcraft or Navigation, in which we then had a demonstration lesson. On Sunday morning we got to teach our second lesson which we felt much more confident about; many of us felt we

improved a lot with our lessons being better structured the second time round. On Sunday afternoon, we had a demonstration drill lesson before preparing our own drill lesson, which we will teach to Year 10 cadets over the next few weeks. We all gained lots of confidence on this weekend and look forward to teaching more lessons to younger cadets in the future. Thank you to all the staff who helped us and made it so enjoyable.

### **Online Psychology Conference March 2021 - Kanyin Odeyinde L6E**

Our first speaker was Phil Barnyard, a professor of psychology at Nottingham Trent University. His talk 'Everything you know about psychology is wrong' explained how things we thought to be common knowledge may not be as they seem. From explaining how the brain may not be as necessary as we think it is (some people are born with 90% of their brain missing and are still fully functioning), to asking us if it is at all possible to truly differentiate sanity from insanity, it was an impressive and eye opening lecture. Next was Cara Flanagan (the author of our Psychology textbooks), who gave us many tips to get the most of our revision. The main message that came across was that to be successful in revision, little and often is key and you shouldn't let failure discourage you. I personally think this was really useful as it reduces the amount of stress felt and improves the retainment of information in the long term.

My personal favourite talk was Alex Bellos' 'favourite number' one. Who would have thought the most common favourite number would be 7, although this may be due to its significance in almost every major religion. It was interesting to see how numbers, seemingly unrelated to psychology, really affect the way we view the world and which products we buy. I felt this was the most interactive of the talks and very engaging. We had a surprise lecturer who turned out to be Phillip Zimbardo, a world renowned psychologist known for his infamous Stanford prison experiment. He gave us a brief overview of the experiment and many questions flooded in about the ethics of it. He acknowledged that it was unethical (although it was passed by the ethics committee as they had no idea the results would turn out as they did) but 'many powerful new lessons were learnt that justified the negative experiences of the prisoners and the guards.' Zimbardo was a very entertaining, cheery speaker and it was a very interesting talk.

David Wilson talked about his experience as a prison governor and how designed and managed two wards of 12 of Britain's most disruptive criminals. He explained the systems put in place were brought about by psychological findings: most violence happens in environments that are hot, polluted and overcrowded therefore air conditioning was installed, and wards weren't cramped to try and minimise violence, a fascinating application of psychology to manage a very difficult situation. Our last speaker was a well known cognitive psychologist, whom we study, Elizabeth Loftus. She is an expert on memories and briefly explained her work on false memories and how leading questions can tamper with people's memories. She also explained how her work on false memories has been used in some very high profile cases which some may find questionable, such as for the defence of Harvey Weinstein's sexual abuse case. Loftus did state that she had second thoughts about doing the case but ultimately felt that as she was just explaining her research and not personally discrediting the victims, she would go ahead. Although her work on memory is controversial in the application, it is truly revolutionary and has a lot of evidence to prove its validity.

### **Bough Beech Open Day 26th June 2021, 11:00 to 16:00 - Mrs George Shrubsole**

Ever wanted to try dinghy sailing, windsurfing or stand up paddle boarding? Then now is your chance! Our friendly club in Edenbridge is opening its doors and would like to invite you to come and join us on the water for some fun and relaxation – and it's FREE!

Our experienced members will be there to show you the ropes. All you need is some clothes and shoes you don't mind getting wet, a wind-proof top, a towel and a sense of adventure!

So bring the family, bring a picnic and have a free try out of sailing, windsurfing or stand up paddle boarding with one of our qualified instructors. FREE TO ATTEND – NO BOOKING REQUIRED.

Bough Beech Sailing Club, Winkhurst Green Road, Bough Beech, Edenbridge Kent TN8 7AN

#### **RULES & REGULATIONS:**

- Event subject to COVID regulations
- 1 try out per person and subject to availability – allocated on a first come, first served basis
- Activities only available to children of 7 years of age and over.
- All children must be supervised by a parent/guardian
- Lifejackets must be worn on the water: if you have your own, please bring it; if not, we can provide you with one
- Swimming not allowed

For further information please see our website: [www.boughbeechsc.org.uk](http://www.boughbeechsc.org.uk)

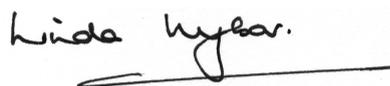
**Kent and Medway Teacher Training - Ms Mitchell**

***Are you thinking about joining the most rewarding profession or know someone who is?***

Kent and Medway Training works in partnership with TWGGS, as well as many other schools throughout Kent and South East London, to successfully train thousands of teachers. If you're thinking of becoming a teacher, or if you know someone who is, it is not too late. KMT are still recruiting until the end of the academic year, so why not get started today! KMT have opportunities available for both Primary and Secondary training. All you need to have, or have pending, is a degree and a strong desire to teach and inspire the minds of the future.

If you have any questions or would like some further guidance on your application then please contact Ms Mitchell at [itt@twggs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:itt@twggs.kent.sch.uk).

Finally, I wish you a relaxing Bank Holiday weekend, and perhaps finally some sunshine! With best wishes to you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Wybar." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher